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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,515	03/30/2004	Antonio Brigato	1855-16	6132

7590

09/07/2006

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EXAMINER

SELLS, JAMES D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1734

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/813,515	Applicant(s) BRIGATO, ANTONIO	
	Examiner James Sells	Art Unit 1734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brault et al (US Patent 5,601,959) in view of Brooker (US Patent 6,153,038).

Brault discloses a method for applying a transferable image 18 to a permanent receptor 20, such as a wall (col. 5, line 33) comprising the steps of:

(1) Applying a transferable image 18 onto the surface of a transfer sheet 24, 26 via a computer driven printer (Figures 1 and 5 and col. 4, lines 38-62);

(2) Applying an adhesive coating or binder 22 onto the wall and also applying adhesive onto the transferable image 18 applied to the transfer sheet 24, 26 (col. 5, lines 41-43 and col. 6, lines 24-26);

(3) Placing the transfer sheet 24, 26 against the wall with the transferable image 18 in contact with the adhesive 22 (col. 6, lines 58-60);

(4) Applying heat and/or pressure to press the transfer sheet 24, 26 against the wall 20 to bond and transfer the transferable image 18 thereto via the adhesive layers (col. 6, lines 60-63); and

(5) Removing the transfer sheet carrier 24 from the wall (col. 6, lines 64-67).

With regards to the adhesive applied to either or both of the transferable image and the wall, Brault discloses that it may exhibit tackiness at room temperatures, or may be non tacky at room temperatures and be heat or pressure activated (col. 5, lines 52-54).

However, Brault does not disclose the adhesive applied onto the transferable image 18 is in the form of a sealant. Regarding this difference, the applicant is directed to the reference of Brooker.

Brooker discloses a method of transferring an image from one medium to a second medium at ambient temperature. At col. 5, lines 50-55, Brooker discloses that sealants and adhesive laminates are functionally equivalent alternate expedients in the art for protecting images. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to substitute a sealant for the adhesive applied onto the transferable image 18 disclosed by Brault.

Regarding claim 22, Brault discloses that the transferable image 18 is printed by an electrographic (i.e. electrostatic) printer (col. 4, lines 39-55).

Regarding claim 23, at col. 5, lines 30-40, Brault discloses that the permanent receptor or wall 20 and may be rigid or semi-rigid sheeting or plating such as glass, ceramic, cardboard or brick wall.

Regarding claims 24-25, Brooker discloses at col. 5, lines 41-50 that it is desirable to apply a varnish over an image in order to protect the image and to provide various finished looks such as flat, semi-gloss, gloss and satin. In addition, Brault suggests that further protective overcoatings can be applied over the transferable image

Art Unit: 1734

18 in order to provide better image protection, solvent, UV and stain resistance (col. 9, lines 40-55). For these reasons, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to apply a varnish over the transferred image, as taught by Brooker, in the method of Brault.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 21, line 10, "form" should be changed to – from --.

Claim 24, line 1, "the varnish" lacks antecedent basis in the claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

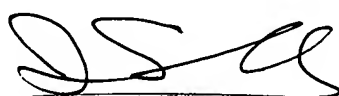
Telephone/Fax

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Sells whose telephone number is (571) 272-

Art Unit: 1734

1237. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached at (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JS Sells', written over a horizontal line.

**JAMES SELLS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECH. CENTER 1700**